34

Cronfield, August 6, 1782.

Sir,

I have much satisfaction in acquainting you, that, at a General Meeting of the County yesterday at Stowmarket, it was unanimously resolved, that the County of Suffolk should undertake to build a Man of War of Seventy-four Guns, for the use of the public. You are appointed one of the Committee to put that truly patriotic and laudable measure into execution, by soliciting and receiving the Contributions of each Individual in your Neighbourhood; and I trust every one, according to his abilities, will generously contribute to promote so noble and spirited an undertaking. Several of your near Neighbours are likewise appointed of the Committee, and I should think, by acting in concert with each other, you would very much diminish the trouble this business will occasion you. I beg it as a particular favor that you will send me a List of the Subscribers, with the Sum subscribed to each Name, by the middle of next Week, that it may be published in the Ipswich Journal on Saturday se'nnight. I am certain it requires no argument to convince you of the utility and good effect such an undertaking will have throughout the Kingdom; it will be setting an Example that will for ever reflect honor on this County. If your Engagements or any other reason prevents your acting in the Committee, you will be so obliging as to inform me of it.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,

William Middleton